



ST. MARY'S SPOTLIGHT

November 11 – 15, 2019

Week in Review:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Well, St. Mary's Kindness Week is wrapping up and has been a great success! From the 109 bags of leaves raked and collected last Saturday at Rake Up Boise, to the daily celebrations of the various groups who show us kindness every day, it has been wonderful to see the kindness of our students and our community as a whole on gran display. As I told our students this morning, we do not stop being and showing kindness just because the week is over. Rather, it is an invitation and reminder to show Christian kindness in our thoughts, words, and deeds. At home, please use the theme of this week and month as an excuse to have conversations with your children about kindness and how our Catholic faith always directs us to live as Christ lived. This week, it has been such a joy going into classrooms and seeing our students working with their buddies to make cards and prayer angles to share with the homebound in our parish.

On a different note, our school has been actively working to create a Strategic Plan for our school with clear, prioritized, and timebound goals for the improvement of the entire St. Mary's community. You may have heard about this initiative, but I wanted to share with you that we have been working hard, and we are hoping to be able to share with you some of the details in the coming weeks. This is an exciting time for St. Mary's, and there have been so many dedicated stakeholders working hard to make St. Mary's the best version of itself. I am very grateful for all of your hard work, and I am energized by all of the positive energy that I see every day in our school.

As you move into the weekend, I pray that God will continue to bless you and your families. I ask that he grant special blessings to you parents and family members who work so hard to raise the amazing students that come to St. Mary's every day. May he continue to fill you with his grace, love, and endless patience. Have a great weekend!

Continue to stay plugged in by looking at the weekly slideshow. You can't help being amazed and energized by our students' smiles and engagement in their work. Click [HERE](#) to see the photos.

Need to Know:

- **It's all about the Pumpkin Pie:**

As part of Kindness Week (and month) at St. Mary's, we would like to have a class competition to raise money to buy pumpkin pies to donate to Corpus Christi House for Thanksgiving. Similar to the Penny Wars we have done in the past, students can bring in change to contribute to their class total. Money can be brought in from Monday November 18th through Friday November 22nd. The class who raises the most money will win either pizza or donuts for the class.

- **Surveys, Surveys, Surveys:**

I promise this is my last request to complete these two surveys. It is hugely helpful and informative for us. Please click [HERE](#) for the parent survey and [HERE](#) for the hot lunch survey. We need your input!

- **Calling all Holiday Marketeers:**

With the holiday market rapidly approaching, we still have room/need for vendors. Please click [HERE](#) to get more info about being a vendor. Also, if you are interested in volunteering for the Holiday Market, please contact Derrick Henry Jr. at (510)921-1986 or Anja Henry at avanassche93@gmail.com.



Nice to Know:

- **Book Fair Success:**

Last weekend's Book Fair was a huge success! Click [HERE](#) to see a letter from our amazing teacher, Elaine Davis, about the details of the fair's success.

- **Hot Dog Lunches:**

To assist our 8th grade class in raising funds for their retreat, we will be serving a hot dog lunch once a month this year. Click [HERE](#) to order hot dogs for the year and [HERE](#) to order hot dogs in November.

- **Speech Screenings (This time I am serious):**

The St. Alphonsus School Health Program coordinates free speech screenings for all kindergarten students and any referrals we receive. The screenings will be on Thursday, November 21st. If your child already receives speech therapy services or you would **NOT** like your child to be screened, please let their teacher know before November 21st! Any questions or concerns, let me know!

- **Ladies night out:**

Georgia White, owner of Boise at its Best, and Julia Grant, are hosting the ever popular "Make Your Own Thanksgiving Centerpiece" party at her floral shop. There will be food, beverages (including wine) and dessert. The event is on Friday, November 22nd from 6-9pm. There are 8 slots on a first come basis so reserve your spot (\$60) by contacting Julia Grant at jkertzgrant@hotmail.com or 208-407-6451.

- **Pastorelas:**

Pastorelas are a Mexican tradition telling of the birth of Jesus through a dramatic performance. Liliana Tena, is leading this effort and she needs more help from students, including people to play some of the characters as well as to help with lighting, set-up/tear-down and other tasks. Practices will be on Fridays at 3:30 until the school performance on Friday, December 13th. A second performance for the parish will be on Sat., December 21st after the 5 pm Mass. Please email Liliana Tena (<mailto:sililianat5@gmail.com>) or Amaya Eiguren (<mailto:ameiguren@stmarys-boise.org>) if you have more questions.

- **Redbird (Morning Math Program):**

The Redbird program is running on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:15-7:55 am. The cost for the first semester is \$175. If you have questions, please email Mandy Campanella.

- **Educational Outfitters is having a sale:**

Educational Outfitters is having a sale of \$5 off pants and polos right now thru November 30. It's in store and online - the online shopping code is THANKFUL.

Important Dates (Right around the Corner):

- **November 20** Student Mass: 2nd Grade – Time, Christian Leaders Recognition Ceremony

Important Dates (On the Horizon):

- **November 27-29** Thanksgiving Break (No School)
- **December 6-8** St. Mary's Holiday Market in the Gym (More info to come)
- **December 9** Student Mass: 3rd Grade – Corpus Christi
- **December 10** St. Mary's Christmas Program. 6:00 pm in the Church (More info to come)

Wisdom from our young scholars: Insightful tidbits we just had to share...

When asking the Kindergarten class what they are thankful for, one student said, "MYSELF!" Got to love the perspective of a 5-year-old. HA!